

REMARKS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1-34 are pending and under consideration.

No new matter is being presented, and approval of amended claim 1 is respectfully requested.

REASONS FOR ENTRY

Applicants request entry of this Rule 116 Response and Request for Reconsideration because the amendments to independent claim 1 are merely to overcome the rejection based on 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Therefore, the amendments should not entail any further search by the Examiner since no new features are being added or no new issues are being raised. Further, the amendments do not significantly alter the scope of the claims and place the application at least into a better form for appeal. The amendments were not earlier presented because the Applicants believed in good faith that the cited prior art did not disclose the present invention as previously claimed.

REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 1-34 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112

On page 2 of the Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-34 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Specifically, the Examiner states that it is unclear whether the term "a first electrode", recited in line 5 of independent claim 1, is referring to one of the plurality of first electrodes, as recited in line 2.

Further, the Examiner states that the phrase "said first and second electrode drive circuits comprise first and second sustain circuits" is vague and indefinite because it is unclear whether there is one sustain circuit in each of the first and second electrode drive circuits, or two sustain circuits in each electrode drive circuit.

Therefore, independent claim 1 is amended to further clarify that a plurality of second electrodes disposed nearly in parallel with said plurality of first electrodes so as to configure display cells, each display cell including one of the plurality of first electrodes and one of the plurality of second electrodes, and so as to activate electric discharge between the one of the plurality of second electrodes and the one of the plurality of first electrodes comprising said display cell; and said first and second electrode drive circuits comprise first and second sustain circuits, respectively. As a result, the rejection of independent claim 1, under 35 U.S.C. §112, is respectfully overcome.

REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 1-34 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(a) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY
ONOZAWA ET AL. (U.S. 2002/0175883)

The rejections of claims 1-34 are respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Embodiments of the present invention, as recited in claim 1 for example, include first and second electrode drive circuits that comprise first and second sustain circuits, respectively, outputting a sustain discharge voltage for activating electric discharge associated with light emission in said display cell, and at least one of said first or second sustain circuits has a parallel circuit in which a first switching element having a high-speed switching performance and a second switching element having a low-saturation-voltage performance are connected in parallel, thereby applying the sustain discharge voltage to both the first and second switching elements. Thus, in the sustain period, not in the reset period or the address period, a drive voltage is applied by both of the first and second switching elements.

On the other hand, the circuit depicted in Fig. 2 of Onozawa et al. (hereinafter "Onozawa"), and as described in paragraphs [0003] and [0004], shows an X common driver 3 with output devices (transistors) Q8, Q9, Q10 and Q11, which are provided between the common X electrode terminal and a voltage source +Vs1, -Vs2, +Vx, and -Vwx, respectively. By turning on any one of the transistors, the corresponding voltage is supplied to the common X electrode terminal. In addition, a Y common driver 5 comprises transistors Q3, Q4, Q5, Q6 and Q7, which are provided between the line from the scan driver 4 and the voltage source +Vs1, -Vs2, +Vwy, +Vy and ground (GND), respectively.

Further, as described in Onozawa, paragraphs [0005] and [0006], in each period, some transistors are turned on, while the other transistors are kept off. The voltage is applied to the X electrode and the Y electrode, respectively. Particularly, in the sustain period, transistors Q3 and Q9 and transistors Q4 and Q8 are turned on alternately, and the drive voltage are applied to the X electrode and the Y electrode.

In other words, according to Onozawa, the Y sustain circuit is composed of transistors Q3 and Q4, and the X sustain circuit is composed of transistors Q8 and Q9. Namely, Onozawa fails to teach or suggest the sustain circuit comprised of a first switching element having a high-speed switching performance and a second switching element having a low-saturation-voltage performance, which are connected in parallel, as recited in independent claim 1.

In addition, the Examiner states that Onozawa discusses characteristics of transistors, citing paragraphs [0003]-[0010]; however, there is merely an explanation of construction of the X

common driver, the scan driver and the Y common driver, as well as a description of how to control each transistor when applying a voltage to the X and Y electrodes. Thus, there is no teaching of the characteristics of transistors in paragraphs [0003]-[0010] of Onozawa.

The transistors Q8 and Q10 shown in Fig. 2 of Onozawa are connected with separate power sources +Vs1 and +Vx, and, thus, they are not parallel. In fact, Onozawa does not appear to disclose switching elements connected in parallel.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the prior art. As a result, it is further submitted that dependent claims 2-34 inherit the patentability of independent claim 1 and, thus, also patentably distinguish over the prior art.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. Further, all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: September 18, 2006

By: Michael P. Stanley
Michael P. Stanley
Registration No. 58,523

1201 New York Avenue, N.W., 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501